

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1667

To provide an additional opportunity for administrative or judicial relief for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers who were discriminated against by the Department of Agriculture in farm credit and benefit programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2003

Mr. BURNS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide an additional opportunity for administrative or judicial relief for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers who were discriminated against by the Department of Agriculture in farm credit and benefit programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Minority Farmers
5 Fairness Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE**
2 **OR JUDICIAL RELIEF FOR SOCIALLY DIS-**
3 **ADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS**
4 **WHO SUFFERED DEPARTMENT OF AGRI-**
5 **CULTURE DISCRIMINATION.**

6 (a) OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT CLAIM.—If a person
7 submitted a petition for redress in the settlement of the
8 consolidated class action lawsuits entitled *Pigford v.*
9 *Veneman* and *Brewington v. Veneman* (United States Dis-
10 trict Court for the District of Columbia, Civil Action Num-
11 bers 97–1978 and 98–1693) or under any administrative
12 process provided by the Department of Agriculture in con-
13 nection with a claim of discrimination in the operation of
14 farm credit and benefit programs, and the petition or
15 claim was not heard on its merits or otherwise denied, the
16 person may obtain de novo consideration of the petition
17 or claim before an administrative law judge of the Depart-
18 ment of Agriculture or in any Federal court of competent
19 jurisdiction.

20 (b) TIME.—The request for de novo consideration of
21 a petition or claim under subsection (a) shall be submitted
22 not later than one year after the later of—

- 23 (1) the date of the enactment of this Act; or
24 (2) the date the petition or claim was denied.

25 (c) RELIEF.—The administrative law judge or court
26 shall hear and determine the petition or claim on the mer-

1 its and, if found to be valid, award appropriate relief
2 under the settlement or section 742 of the Agriculture,
3 Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and
4 Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1999 (section 101(a)
5 of Public Law 105–277; 7 U.S.C. 2279d).

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